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THE FOURTH CONFERENCE OF THE ALBANIAN AUTHORS' LEAGUE

After the opening speech by Dhimiter Shuteriqi, the election of new officers was held. The new Board of Directors will consist of the following members: Kole Jakova, Dhimiter Shuteriqi, Llazar Siliqi, Zihni Sako, Nonda Bulka, Kin Dushi, Shevket Musaraj, Aleks Caci, Luan Gafezexi, Mark Mdoja, Haki Stermilli, Zisa Cihuli, and Fetmir Gjata. Dhimiter Shuteriqi was elected chairman with Shevket Musaraj and Llazar Siliqi as vice-chairmen.

Shevket Musaraj then presented the report of the previous Board of Directors on the activities of the League during the 3 years since the last meeting. He called attention to the increased number of publications, the better choice of present-day topics, the ideological improvement in content, and the artistic realism of the published works.

Among the prose writers specially mentioned in the report were: Kin Dushi, Zihni Sako, Fatmir Gjate, and Dhimiter Shuteriqi. Among the poets, Musaraj mentioned Llazar Siliqi, Dhimiter Shuteriqi, Aleks Caci, M. Gurakuqi, Luan Qafezezi, and Andrea Varfi. In drama, Kole Jakova was cited as the writer of a successful play, Halili edhe Hajria.

Musarij analyzed the defects of Albanian writers and advised authors to pattern themselves on Soviet models in the struggle for socialism and peace.

Kole Jakova spoke on the successes and weaknesses of young writers. Speeches followed by Fatmir Gjata, Jakov Xoxa, Llazar Siliqi, Mehmet Myrtiu, Zihni Sako, Kin Dushi, Aleks Caci, Lavidje Nepravishita, Gjovalin Luka, Misto Treska, and others. Selim Hasani recited some of his poetry. A speech by the Soviet author, Georgi Gulya, was followed by general discussion in which the following took part:

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Luan Qafezezi, Vangjel Koco Gjeci, Enver Fico, Stavri Kristo, Skender Areza, Tonin Miloti, Nonda Bulka, Zisa Cikuli, Spiro Xhai, Yll Radovicka, Trifon Zhagjika, Mark Gurakuqi, Dionis Bubani, Sterjo Spase, Bajram Resuli, Agim Shehu, and Vedat Kokona.

Nexhmije Hoxha spoke, among other topics, on the need for a militant literature, a party literature, a literature patterned upon Soviet experience, under the leadership of Enver Hoxha.

The Albanian Authors' League passed a resolution with a preamble noting the successes and weaknesses of the League since the Third Conference.

In the preamble, the Conference took pleasure in acknowledging the great successes achieved by Albanian authors, their development in criticism and self-criticism, their growing allegiance to the Albanian Workers Party and friendship for the USSR and Stalin. The Conference also praised the aid of writers in mobilizing the masses for peace and socialism, and against Anglo-American imperialism.

Nevertheless, the Conference noted certain weaknesses in the organization of the League, and criticized the infrequency of its meetings. The Secretariat was criticized for usurping the functions of the Board of Directors. Furthermore, it was urged that the Secretariat, the editorial and other departments of the League had not properly seen to the execution of the resolutions of the Third Conference. The League was still lacking in criticism and self-criticism, and in stimulating writers to express the life of the working class, youth, women, and soldiers. It was also backward in literary criticism, professional ideology, and relations with the world abroad.

Considering the efforts of the Albanian people to complete the great projects of the Five-Year Plan, the Fourth Conference resolved to undertake the following duties:

1. The League must strengthen its organization by wider use of Soviet experience, by collective work in all departments, better work-planning and supervision, increased criticism and self-criticism, and improved accountancy.
2. The League must pay especial attention to the ideological professional education of authors by organizing lectures and seminars, by translating publications on esthetic materials and works on the building of socialism. Work must be carried on to enrich and purify the Albanian language. The various departments of the League must organize discussions on literary subjects including Soviet and other literature. Knowledge of Russian was considered a "must" for all writers.
3. Particular attention must be paid to literary criticism, profiting by the Soviet practice of inviting criticism from all readers. Critical studies must be made of Albanian literary tradition.
4. The League must take concrete measures to give writers a realistic approach to the aspects of life in mines, factories, power stations, construction enterprises, cooperatives, and state farms. It must call upon all writers to build socialism and peace.

The work for peace must include class warfare, alliance of the working class and peasantry, industrialization, modern methods, and the defense of Albania.

Literary works must illustrate the characteristics of the Albanian Workers Party and Enver Hoxha and stimulate friendship for Stalin and the USSR. Authors must create, as examples to youth, "positive heroes" like those of Soviet literature.

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5. The Albanian Authors' League must seek to create great types of literature. Hence, more care must be given to the production of children's books, drama, poetry, satires, criticisms, songs, scenarios, and librettos.

6. The League must cooperate with the Union of Albanian Working Youth in raising the standards of education for young people.

7. The League must make closer contacts with mass organizations and educational institutions in the solution of pertinent problems. It must take charge of the patronage of letters, and of individual aid to authors, especially to young authors.

8. The editorial department of the League must organize collective work and improve the quality of works published by its organizations. It must aid authors in perfecting their works for publication. It must stimulate literary criticism.

9. Relations with the outside world, especially the USSR, must be expanded. The foreign department of the League must supply foreign authors with as many literary and critical works as possible, and have translations made of selected works from the USSR and the Peoples' Democracies. It must have translations made of progressive works from capitalistic countries. It must also take charge of translations of Albanian works into foreign languages.

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